

*Amendments to the Claims*

Kindly enter the following amendments to the claims:

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Claim 1 (currently amended):

A support arrangement for a semi-membrane tank wall comprising:

an array of support members disposed adjacent to the semi-membrane tank wall;

a1 a plurality of support assemblies connecting [to] the support members to the semi-membrane tank wall and providing support for the tank wall in the vertical direction while permitting relative sliding motion therebetween in at least one horizontal direction;

each support assembly including a first component affixed to a tank wall, a second component member affixed to support member, and a support structure connecting the first and second components and permitting relative sliding motion between the first and second components in a horizontal direction while providing vertical load support for the adjacent tank wall; and

wherein the support structure includes a groove permitting sliding motion of the first component in a direction orthogonal to the sliding motion permitted between the support structure and the second component, and wherein the first component includes a portion received in the groove of the support structure.

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Claims 2-5 (original)

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claims 7-9 (original)